

AS A VOTER AND TAXPAYER IN COCONINO COUNTY YOU ARE BEING ASKED TO VOTE "YES OR NO" ON THE QUESTION TO INCREASE OUR SALES TAX BY TWO TENTS OF ONE PERCENT (\$.002) TO FUND THE OPERATION OF OUR JAIL. ARGUABLY, THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES, SUCH AS, REDUCED RATES OF INCARCERATION, IMPROVING PRETRIAL SERVICES TO SPEEDUP THE PROCESS FOR DEFENDANTS AWAITING TRIAL, AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF DEALING WITH ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSERS IN THE SYSTEM AS OPPOSED TO INCARCERATION IN THE JAIL FACILITY. THESE , PROCESSES TAKE TIME TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT, TIME WE DON'T HAVE. LET'S CONSIDER A FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE OF OUR JAIL IS TO PROTECT US FROM THOSE INDIVIDUALS WITH ABERRANT BEHAVIOR WHO, IF FREE, WOULD COMMIT CRIMES AGAINST US, THE DISSENTING OPINION SAYS THAT OUR SALES TAX GROWTH RATE AT 2 1/2% IS INSUFFICIENT TO COVER A YEAR ON YEAR GROWTH RATE OF 8% IN OUR JAIL POPULATION. I WOULD AGREE, EXCEPT THIS OPINION IS NOT COMPARING APPLES TO APPLES. THE BASIS OF THE 2 1/2 % SALES TAX GROWTH GREATLY EXCEEDS THE BASIS OF THE 8% GROWTH IN THE JAIL POPULATION. I URGE YOU TO VOTE "YES" ON THIS QUESTION AS WELL AS THE EXTENSION OF TIME FOR THE TAX.

LAVELLE MCCOY